



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

**LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE (LPCC)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**September 11, 2014**

**10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Arizona State Capitol Executive Tower**

**Third Floor Conference Room**

**1700 West Washington Street**

**Phoenix, Arizona 85007**

**Pending Approval**

**Committee Members, Liaisons and Participants Present**

C.T. Wright (Committee Chairman), Becky Brimhall-Lepire, Charles Brown, Patsy Gillis, Joy Grainger, Diane Joens, Deborah Lavinsky, Melinda Preston, Trudy Schuett, Tonya Watson, Christine Bryson-Lazo, Brittany Carter, Elisa Davis, Randy Maskell and Don Ritchie

**Committee Members Absent**

George Evanoff, Teresa Ramirez Lopez, Doyle Meredith, Lisa O'Neill and Allison Perrin

**Council Staff Present**

Cathy De Lisa, Kim Jennings and Carolyn Sigler

**Guests Present and Signing In**

Cynthia Bush, W. Mark Clark and Kathleen Rood

**Legislators and Staff Present**

Senator David Farnsworth, Representative Debbie McCune Davis, Ingrid Garvey, Jennifer Harris and Diane Langlois

**Welcome, Introductions, Review & Approval of July 10, 2014, Draft LPCC Minutes**

Committee Chairman C.T. Wright called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Committee Chairman Wright invited those in attendance to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of September 11, 2001. A welcome and introduction period followed. Draft minutes from the July 10, 2014, meeting were reviewed. *Charles Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Diane Joens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Legislative Priorities for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Legislature**

Committee Chairman Wright referenced the draft Governor's Advisory Council on Aging 2015 Advocacy Issues handout provided to the group and welcomed legislators and legislative staff and invited them to share information on priorities for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Legislature.

Senator David Farnsworth spoke about representing a large constituency of older adults in his East Valley district and his focus on protecting the stability and transparency of retirement funds.

Representative Debbie McCune Davis stated she plans to work on the advocacy issues listed with specific attention to financial security for all ages, predatory lenders, Adult Protective Services staffing and the prevalence of isolated and vulnerable older adults with no safety net. Representative McCune Davis expressed concern that special needs populations have access to ride sharing services.

Ingrid Garvey, House Legislative Research Analyst, stated she was attending at the request of Representative Kate Brophy McGee and that Representative Brophy McGee was interested in the concerns of older constituents and had sponsored legislation last session that supported caregivers and older Arizonans.

Jennifer Harris, on behalf of Representative Lela Alston, and Diane Langlois, Assistant to Senator Barbara McGuire, both indicated they were attending to listen and share concerns with their respective legislators.

### **Discussion of Potential GACA 2015 Advocacy Priorities**

Committee Chairman C.T. Wright noted that since the Council is uncertain of legislative priorities or the administration's budget plans at this time, the Council is considering advocacy priorities for 2015 and will rank those priorities ahead of the next legislative session. Committee Chairman Wright then invited members and guests to share advocacy issues or concerns.

Advocacy issues and concerns shared included:

- Transportation. (special concerns of rural areas)
- Isolation. (lack of social connectedness)
- Support for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS).
- Funding Adult Protective Services (APS) staffing needs.
- Alzheimer's Research Funding.
- Expedited application process for Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS).
- Access to affordable dental care for vulnerable and older adults.
- Restoration of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) dental care benefit.
- Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, federal sequestration's impact on waiting lists for services and state funding levels.
- Access to mental health care and behavioral health assistance for seniors under the Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA).
- Support for caregivers.
- Role of Area Agencies on Aging.
- Reduced funding for skilled nursing facilities.
- Financial exploitation; predatory reverse mortgage lending.
- Community education around available resources and how to access information and referrals.

Senator Farnsworth and Representative McCune Davis voiced agreement that having the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging share ideas for legislative priorities with the Governor is an important first step in advocating for older Arizonans.

### **Election Information**

Handouts were provided regarding federal & state offices to be elected and the Town Hall Schedule for statewide ballot propositions. Copies of these handouts are available through the Council on Aging office.

### **Report Out & Discussion on Events Related to LPCC**

Becky Brimhall-Lepire discussed her attendance at the National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) Conference the first week in September and shared NICOA's four areas of focus: elder abuse, long-term care services, financial/estate planning and retirement and security.

Christine Bryson-Lazo reported the elder index data was updated and posted as of 8/27/14 at: [www.basiceconomicsecurity.org/ei](http://www.basiceconomicsecurity.org/ei).

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Committee Chairman C.T. Wright at 11:17 a.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging is tentatively scheduled for January 9, 2015; date, time and location to be determined and announced by public meeting notice posted at the GACA website: [www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/](http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/). These meetings are open to the public.